



Hip-hoppin'
for
Libertarian
campaign:
Page 9

LP News

The Party of Principle™

September 2015

The Official Newspaper of the Libertarian Party

Volume 45, Issue 3

In This Issue:

Chair's Corner	2
Legislative Campaigns	3, 5
New State Chairs	4
76 LP Candidates on Ballot	5
Ballot Access Updates	6
Reaching Minority Voters	7
Libertarian Solutions	7
LPs Around the Globe	8
LP Maryland Activist	9
Alive Free Happy Libertarians..	11
Presidential Debate Suit	12
LNC Meeting Highlights	12
LP Press Releases	12, 15
Affiliate News	13-15
What Have You Missed?	16
Media Buzz	16

LP candidate recruiting under way for 2016

"You don't have to recover from a good start."
— John Wareham, corporate headhunter

When 2014 Libertarian candidates were asked in a survey, "What would you have done differently?" one of the top two responses was, "I would have started my campaign earlier."

An early start gives candidates time to assemble a campaign team, make plans, prepare their Libertarian solutions and talking points, put up a website, and put in place a bullet-proof plan to secure their names on the ballot.

Likewise, it's none too soon to recruit candidates for 2016. Several Libertarian state affiliates are wasting no time, making plans and recruiting candidates to run in 2016.

In **California**, recently-elected Chair Ted Brown and other LP activists are putting fundraising plans in place to cover the cost of candidate filing fees and to fund



LP California Chair Ted Brown has recruited more than 500 Libertarian candidates.

candidate statements in the ballot pamphlet, for which the state charges a fee.

Brown has been the state party's most prolific candidate recruiter. He recruited more than 500 Libertarian candidates over 11 election cycles between 1988 and 2010.

continued on page 10...

TOP TEN reasons
to run as a
Libertarian
Page 10

"[T]he LP must have candidates in order for our message to be heard. Most people don't pay attention to politics until the election season every two years. If we aren't on the ballot and participating in that process, they will never hear about us."

— Ted Brown, LP California Chair

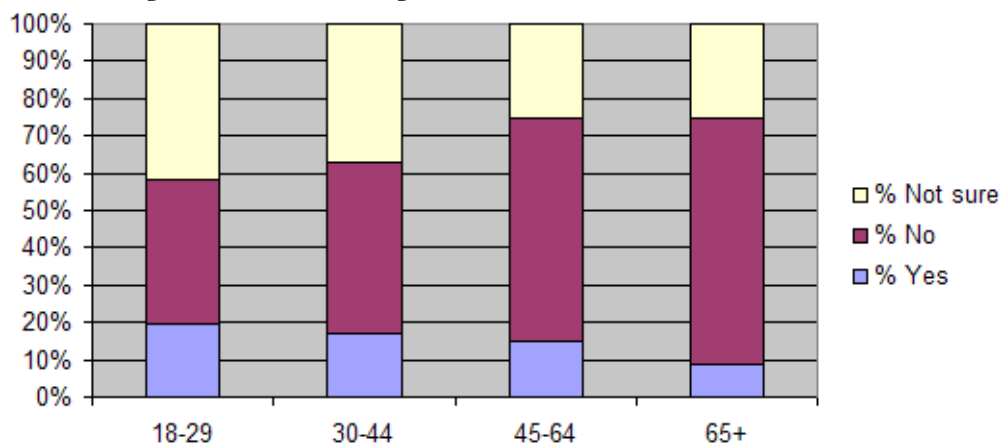
Yet another poll shows Americans moving in a libertarian direction

Gone are the days when 5 percent or less of Americans identified as libertarian.

A YouGov poll in April showed that almost half of all Americans either identify as libertarian, or are "not sure." Sixty-two percent of young voters between the ages of 18 and 29 so identify.

Fifty-one percent of voters agree that "the smaller the government, the better the government." Thirty percent of Americans even agree with the libertarian statement that "Taxation is theft."

Would you describe yourself as a libertarian or not?



CHAIR'S CORNER

All people deserve liberty and respect

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

In July, the Libertarian Party had a booth at FreedomFest, an annual conference billed as “The World’s Largest Gathering of Free Minds.” It was my first time attending this conference, despite being a Libertarian my entire adult life. I personally met with hundreds of attendees of all political stripes and shared our vision for the Libertarian Party.



Nicholas Sarwark

There is a perennial argument over whether the Libertarian Party should have a presence at events like FreedomFest. The speakers and attendees are not exclusively (or even mostly) libertarian; in fact, many of them are big-government Republicans actively hostile to libertarians and the very existence of the Libertarian Party.

Donald Trump spoke at FreedomFest at a gathering of people ostensibly devoted to property rights. The same Donald Trump who tried to get Atlantic City to steal widow Vera Coking’s house so he could build limousine parking for one of his casinos. A nativist blowhard like Donald Trump being invited to a conservative/libertarian conference gives a strong argument to critics who think the Libertarian Party should boycott this event and events like it.

But our party can’t grow by staying home and talking to people who already agree with us. If we’re strong enough in our belief that all people deserve liberty and respect, we can’t be deterred by a single speech

from a narcissist like Trump. Instead of being deterred, I went back to the Libertarian Party booth to record a video question for Mr. Trump that you can watch on Facebook: on.fb.me/1CJTfiW

FreedomFest had exhibitors and speakers from across the spectrum of the liberty movement. Think tanks like Cato and the Atlas Society. Educational organizations like the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE). Lobbying groups like FreedomWorks and the Marijuana Policy Project. All of these groups have the opportunity to move our country closer to liberty.

Still, the Libertarian Party is unique among all the groups as the only voice for libertarian political change. Some talk libertarian — but steer clear of political action. Some engage in political action — but typically sell out to big-government interests. The Libertarian Party is the only freedom group reaching everyday Americans and running candidates who present bold, small-government Libertarian proposals in the public sphere.

Engage. Go out into the world as a proud Libertarian. We are in this party because our goal is “nothing more or less than a world set free in our lifetime.” Our vision is beautiful and urgently needed in American politics. So let’s share it with the world — wherever we can.

Yours in liberty,

The following individual became a Select Benefactor:

Chris J. Rufer

Steven Fos

Franz von Uckermann

The following individuals became Beacon of Liberty contributors:



The following individuals became Lifetime Founder contributors:

Brian Wolter

Mike Shipley

The Libertarian Party grants lifetime membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,500 during any 12-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

David F. Nolan Memorial Office Fund donors, April 16–July 11

Founder

Benefactor of Liberty

Franz von Uckermann

Drew Devitt

Advocate of Liberty

Richard Creamer
Esther Moore

Ronald B. Rollins
Cary G. Van Haaren

John C. Wendell

Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you’d just like to help pay off the mortgage (the LNC has a goal of paying off at least \$60,000 of the principal in 2015), mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS
(ISSN 8755-139X) is the official newspaper of the Libertarian Party® of the United States. Opinions and articles published in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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LP News

The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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Former GOp Mark Anderson running for VA delegate on bold Libertarian solutions

Mark Anderson describes himself as a “reformed Republican” who spent most of his adult life voting for “the lesser of two evils” — until he discovered the 2012 campaign of Gary Johnson for president, which led him to the LP.

“I was hooked,” he said. “The following year found me serving as a campaign coordinator for Robert Sarvis for Senate and William Redpath for Congress.” Along with a group of local libertarians, he also established the Frederick County Libertarians.

Anderson says that in issue after issue, too much government is the problem. He offers bold Libertarian solutions to fix them.

“There are hundreds of departments, agencies, and centers in the federal government and in Virginia,” he said. “This is pure bureaucracy and a complete waste of taxpayer money. We need to eliminate those we don’t need, privatize those we can, and get down to the bare essentials. The government’s only true role is to protect its citizens’ life, liberty, and property.”

Anderson aims to cut taxes along with government spending.

“My goal is to drastically cut spending, get it to an



Mark Anderson

appropriate level, and respond to that with equivalent tax cuts,” he said. “If elected, I will propose and support bills that move to eliminate the personal property tax, cut or eliminate the gas tax, and the income tax. To accomplish this, I will support all means to privatize as many taxpayer-funded programs as possible.”

On guns, Anderson wants to completely restore citizens’ right to self-defense.

“In every instance of a school shooting, the massacre ended when one of three things happened: The shooter was shot by a police officer, the shooter was shot by a private citizen, or the shooter surrendered or ended his life when confronted by those possibilities,” he said. “Society is safer when more law-abiding citizens arm themselves. We are the first responders in a crisis.”

Anderson’s solution?

“I would vote yes to repeal any law restricting students’ rights to carry concealed weapons on community college and university campuses,” he said.

Anderson also supports marriage equality, and ultimately getting the government out of the marriage business; the right of LGBT couples to adopt; and ending the War on Drugs.

“If elected, I would immediately propose and support any bill that legalizes marijuana, and I fully intend to push for the legalization of all drugs. This would remove the black market, which is what drives crime.”

Regarding health care, Anderson said, “The oligarchy currently in place serves the few insurers and manufacturers in the marketplace. Obamacare’s mandate that

all citizens must purchase healthcare is unconstitutional. The key to fixing health care is to introduce it to the free market. Allowing Virginians to seek medical care, medical insurance, and prescriptions drugs across borders will drive health care costs down through competition.”

On immigration, he said, “Today many industries rely on immigrant labor. With our economy based largely on agriculture, Virginia should be especially ready to embrace immigrants. Deporting illegal immigrants should end. I support all efforts to introduce illegal immigrants currently in Virginia to citizenship, through work visas or full citizenship. However, I do not believe non-citizens should be eligible to receive benefits they have not yet paid into.”

Regarding student loan debt, Anderson said, “When the government subsidizes something, such as education, prices rise and quality falls. We need to reintroduce market policies and leave student loans to private banks. Banks, in an effort to ensure their own profits, are more capable of making sound business decisions and giving students the tools needed for success.”

Anderson feels at home in the Libertarian Party.

“In the Libertarian Party I found a party I didn’t have to feel guilty about voting for; they are principled, grounded, and focused on liberty,” he said. “Smaller government and more individual liberty is our credo, and if elected to the House of Delegates I will fight for those principles at every turn.”

• **Campaign Website:** andersonfordelegate.com

• **Facebook:** FB.com/andersonfordelegate

After leaving GOP, Boyd Kendall running as Libertarian for MS Senate

After a stint as a Republican candidate for the Mississippi state house in 2011, Boyd Kendall found a new home with the Libertarian Party. He’s running this year as the Libertarian for State Senate District 51 in the southern region of the state.

“I wanted to run for office again, but I couldn’t reconcile my personal values and beliefs and still run as a Republican,” he said. “They no longer represented the party of freedom or limited government. They had stopped representing me and those who believe in personal freedom.”

Kendall said it took some soul searching and exploring different parties in order to see where he fit in before he found the LP through a friend.

He says Republicans attack conservative competitors whom the established party sees as a threat. Once elected, he says, they break their promises to lower the debt and have “fallen in line with the Democratic party,” maintaining the Big Government status quo.



Jamie Kendall works a booth for her husband Boyd’s senate campaign at the River Jamboree in Moss Point, Miss.

If elected to the senate, he plans to introduce legislation to reduce the state’s current debt, limit the growth of government, and lower or eliminate taxes to create jobs.

Some specific measures he plans to introduce include:

1. Eliminating all yearly property taxes, including taxes on personal property, land, homes, and vehicles.

2. Eliminating drug possession charges that result in long-term prison sentences.
3. Eliminating the sales tax on perishable items.
4. Prohibiting bills introduced to the legislature that are longer than 10 pages, have more than two amendments, or have amendments that do not pertain to the bill itself.

“Neither one of the Republicans who are in the Republican primary have given any specifics of what they want to do,” he said. “All they talk about are past accomplishments and not what they want to see happen going forward.”

“One of the goals I have with this campaign is increasing awareness of the Libertarian Party and to fight some of the misconceptions that people have of the party as a whole,” Kendall said.

Kendall is a full-time paramedic, and also serves his community as a volunteer fire fighter.

Accomplished state chairs step down as new leaders take helm

Twenty-two LP state affiliates elected new leadership in 2015 while several long-term and accomplished state chairs stepped down.

Mark Axinn was chair of the New York LP for five years. He raised tens of thousands of dollars for petitioning in his state and coordinated three petitioning campaigns that brought in more than 90,000 voter signatures for more than a dozen statewide candidates. New York is one of the toughest states for ballot access.



Mark Axinn

"I am delighted that the delegates selected a strong team headed by Mark Glogowski as our new chair, with an agenda to attract new members and add more local chapters in the Libertarian Party," Axinn commented. "I know that the LPNY will be even stronger when my successor retires than it is today."

As state chair for a total of six years (plus three years as 4th District chair), **Ken Moellman** grew the Kentucky LP into a statewide organization. He took a break from leadership to become a statewide candidate in 2011. He also served as a campaign manager for several campaigns and as LPKY ballot access coordinator. During his tenure, active affiliate parties, Libertarian voter registration, and overall Libertarian vote totals increased significantly.



Ken Moellman

"I want to sincerely thank all of our leaders, activists, donors, and voters," Moellman said. "Without all of you, the gains we have seen would not have been possible. LPKY is a team, voluntarily working together toward a common goal: liberty. I want to encourage those who are sitting on the sidelines, or who think our cause cannot win, to look at the gains that we have made in such a (relatively) short period of time. There's a role for everyone in this movement. Find your niche, and help us move forward our common cause."

As chair of LP Arizona for four years (preceded by eight years as treasurer and secretary), **Warren Severin** played a key role in staving off two attempts by the legislature to enact "top two"; recovered the party from near bankruptcy; engaged in several lawsuits, including one against the Commission on Presidential Debates; and ran a solid slate of candidates for state and local office with some of the best Libertarian vote percentages nationwide. Severin also ran for office himself five times.

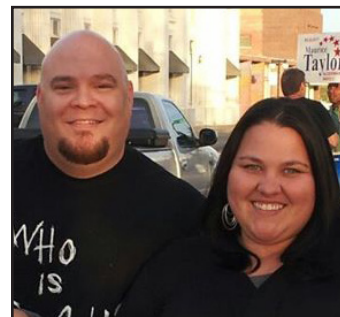


Warren Severin

"It's been fun," he said.

The Arkansas LP is one of the most improved affiliates over the past four years, thanks largely to the leadership

of **Rodger and Jessica Paxton**. They ran 18 candidates for public office in 2012 and 28 in 2014, the first non-presidential partisan Libertarian candidates ever to run in the state. They elected three Libertarians to office in 2014 and two in 2012.



Rodger and Jessica Paxton

"We are so thankful for the years we spent helping to grow the membership and gain ballot access for the LPAR for the first time in history," the Paxtons said. "Without our members, candidates, and the tens of thousands of Arkansans who cast their votes for Libertarian candidates, the LPAR wouldn't be where it is today. For now, we plan to enjoy some time off to focus on our family and *The LAVA Flow Podcast* while the LPAR flourishes under new, capable leadership."

Under the leadership of **Cisse Spragins** for two biannual election cycles, the Missouri LP fielded a full slate of candidates for all statewide and federal offices, as well as many down-ticket races.



Cisse Spragins

In each election, Libertarian vote totals went up over the previous election. Numerous campaigns set new high marks for votes and vote percentages. The party maintained a consistent presence in state politics through activities such as maintaining a booth at the state fair and printing and mailing 3,000 copies of an eight-page tabloid-style newsletter each year.

Kevin Knedler served as Ohio LP state chair for eight years, achieving ballot access for seven of those years (Ohio LP had ballot access only twice before: 1982–84 and 2000–02). They ran a full slate of statewide candidates in 2010, which was the first time a small party had done this in Ohio since 1932.



Kevin Knedler

He put considerable energy into building the LP for growth and fixing problems, including lifting the party from debt, moving the headquarters from an unsafe part of town, developing outreach materials and equipment, fixing numerous website problems, and updating the party's bylaws and constitution. The Ohio LP also hosted the LP national convention in 2014.

Kevin Takenaga stepped down after serving for eight years as chair for the California LP. During his tenure, the party focused on local campaigns, electing seven Libertarians to office, and reelecting 10 over the last four years. Currently, 17 elected Libertarians are serving in office in the state.

2015 LP State Affiliate Chairs

* elected in 2015

** elected in 2015 and also served as chair in the past

Alabama	Leigh LaChine
Alaska	*Robert E. Clift
Arizona	**Michael Kielsky
Arkansas	*Michael Pakko
California	**Ted Brown
Colorado	*Lily Tang Williams
Connecticut	Joshua Katz
Delaware	Scott Gesty
Florida	**Adrian Wyllie
Georgia	*Brett Larson
Hawaii	Tracey Ryan
Idaho	Rob Oates
Illinois	Lex Green
Indiana	**Joe Hauptmann
Iowa	Keith Laube
Kansas	Rob Hodgkinson
Kentucky	*David M. Capano
Louisiana	Scott A. Lewis III
Maine	Jorge Maderal
Maryland	Robert Johnston
Massachusetts	George Phillies
Michigan	*Kimberly Moore
Minnesota	*Chris Dock
Mississippi	*Aaron Barksdale
Missouri	*Bill Slantz
Montana	Mike Fellows
Nebraska	Scott Zimmerman
Nevada	Brett H. Pojunis
New Hampshire	Rich Tomasso
New Jersey	Patrick McKnight
New Mexico	*Marty Swinney
New York	*Mark Glogowski
North Dakota	Roland Riemers
North Carolina	J.J. Summerell
Ohio	* Paul Hugenberg (Acting Chair)
Oklahoma	Steve Long
Oregon	*Lars Hedbor
Pennsylvania	*Shawn Felty
Rhode Island	*Pat Ford
South Carolina	Michael Carmany
South Dakota	*Ken Santema
Tennessee	Jim Tomasik
Texas	Kurt Hildebrand
Utah	Mark Hilgenberg
Vermont	Jeremy Ryan
Virginia	William Redpath
Washington	*Steven Nielson
Washington, D.C.	Ryan Sabot
West Virginia	Michael S. Wilson
Wisconsin	*Joseph Kexel
Wyoming	Richard Brubaker

76 Libertarian candidates on the ballot this fall

Name	Position	Name	Position	Name	Position
Indiana					
Arlen Ambler	Goshen City Council, At-Large	Mississippi		John Burd	Northumberland County Commissioner
Chris Bowen	Indianapolis City Council, District 3	Sheri Bedwell	Lowndes County Circuit Clerk	William Dickerson	Valley Township Constable
Russell Brooksbank	Clarksville Town Council, District 2	John William Faulkner	Harrison County Board of Supervisors, District 2	James Foose	North Manheim Township Constable
Tony Clarkson	Frankfort City Council, Seat 2			Michael Kelley	Wayne Township Auditor
Tabitha Dyck	Fort Wayne City Council, At-Large	Johsua Hardy	State House of Representatives, 109th District	Robert Kobige	Minersville Constable
Bart Gadau	Evansville City Council, 1st Ward			Charles Lescoe	Cressona Constable
Kamara Gard	Richmond Mayor	Boyd T. Kendall	State Senate, 51st District	Bill Miller	Penn Forest Township Supervisor
Sam Goldstein	Indianapolis City Council, District 2	Ken Mills	DeSoto County Board of Supervisors, District 2	Daniel Noll	Tremont Borough Council
Michael Gunyon	Indianapolis City Council, District 12	Jake Reeves	State Senate, 17th District	Ed Quiggle	Northumberland County Sheriff
Nick Hamill	Michigan City Mayor	Don Todd	Harrison County Board of Supervisors, District 1	Andrew Raibeck	Schuylkill Haven Constable
Greg Hertzsch	Clarksville Town Council, District 1			Nelson Reppert	Schuylkill County Commissioner & Cressona Borough Council
Adam Hutchinson	Crawfordsville City Council	Ron Williams	Lieutenant Governor		Carbon County Sheriff
Michael Jasper	Indianapolis City Council, District 25			Matt Schutter	East Norwegian Township Auditor
Robert Jozwiak	Anderson Mayor	New Jersey		Amysue Shappell	Pottsville Constable
Thomas Keister	Clarksville Town Council, District 3	Damien Caillault	State Assembly, 27th District	David Sheriff	Nesquehoning Borough Council
Brad Kirby	Anderson City Council, At-Large	Joseph DeLong	Stouth Bound Brook Mayor	Tim Sverduk	North Manheim Township Supervisor
Jaime Jaquin McKinney	Frankfort Mayor	Joseph Dunsay	River Dell Regional School District	Sandra Walters	Shamokin School Board
Douglas McNaughton	Indianapolis City Council, District 23	Jeff Hetrick	State Assembly, 27th District	Dale Wolf	Penn Forest Township Supervisor
Robert Myers	Evansville City Council, At-Large	Peter Rohrman	Bergen County Freeholder		
Dave Nakarado	Bloomington City Council, District 1	Patrick Smith	South Bound Brook Town Council		
Chris Nealis	Anderson City Council, District 5			Virginia	
James Nease	Frankfort City Council, Seat 4	New York		Mark Anderson	State House of Delegates, 33rd District
Chris Rayment	Marion City Council, At-Large	Paul Koksvik	Newburgh Mayor	Andy Bakker	State House of Delegates, 46th District
Tracey Walser	Anderson City Clerk	Robert Porter	Albany County Legislature	Alvin Scott Bandy	Charlottesville City Council
Robert Walser	Anderson City Council, District 6	Gary Treistman	Woodstock Town Justice	Charlie Bennett	Powhatan County Board of Supervisors, District 5
Laurie Works	Indianapolis City Council, District 15	Craig Watters	Philipstown Town Council		State House of Delegates, 20th District
		Lisa Whitehead	Batavia City Council	Will Hammer	State Senate, 10th District
				Carl Loser	Powhatan County Board of Supervisors, District 4
Louisiana		Pennsylvania		Gregory Todd Rice	State House of Delegates, 87th district
Jason France	BESE, District 6	Christopher Bagenstose	Shenandoah Borough Council		
Jay Price	State House of Representatives, 70th District	Bob Boyles	Penn Forest Township Auditor	Brian Suojanen	
Jennifer 'Hap' Werther	St. Tammany Parish Sheriff				

Libertarian hammers on the issues in second run for office

By Elizabeth C. Brierly

Coming off a Libertarian campaign for Congress in 2014, Will Hammer is running again in 2015, this time for Virginia's House of Delegates in District 20. His sole opponent is Republican incumbent Richard Bell.

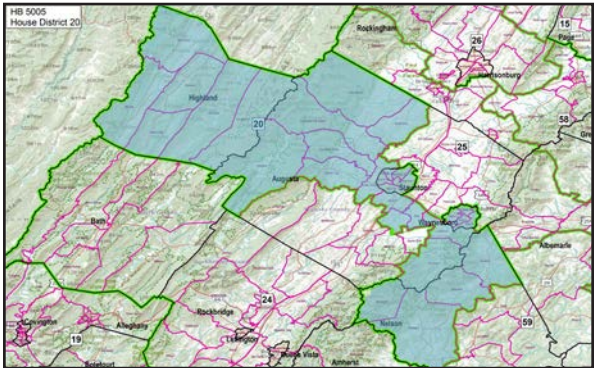
Democrats and Republicans have so heavily gerrymandered District 20 that it was more difficult for Hammer to collect the 125 signatures he needed to get on the ballot for delegate than it was to collect the 1,000 signatures needed to run for Congress. This prompted him to make ending the practice a focus of his campaign platform. Gerrymandering “allows politicians to elect their voters,” he said.

As an economist, Hammer is eager to balance the state's budget and pay down its debt. Toward government transparency, he has pledged to publish his reasoning for votes he casts and to hold frequent meetings with constituents.

A hot issue in Hammer's district is Dominion Transmission's proposal for a natural gas pipeline. The company seeks eminent domain authority to seize property for the pipeline. Dominion has made



Will Hammer



Virginia's gerrymandered 20th Assembly District.

campaign donations to several politicians, including Bell and the governor.

“It illustrates the cronyism of many state capitals,” Hammer wrote. “I have adamantly [opposed] eminent domain, especially for private profit.”

It's not pipelines he opposes, but Dominion's failure to explore voluntary, free-market solutions for gas delivery. He will encourage negotiating with property owners to buy easements.

Will wants to hammer on unjust police behavior, as well.

In March, police followed a black University of Virginia student, age 20, who had peacefully left a bar that had refused him entry. No crime was committed, but

the cops, suspecting him of possessing a fake ID, allegedly slammed his head into the brick pavement.

Hammer attributes that incident not to racial differences, but to general overreach of those in power. He felt intimidated when pulled over for speeding, “and I'm a nonthreatening, clean-cut, white male,” he explained. “The cop's hand was on his gun the entire time. They make everybody feel like criminals.” He will advocate police body cams.

Hammer aims to restore free-market liquor retailers by ending the state's monopoly on sales through Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) stores.

“Republicans brought up ABC's con-

trol of liquor sales 10 years ago, then never did anything,” he said.

Hammer found that his 2014 campaign gave him the confidence he needed to speak to a crowd, a big change from his school days, when speaking in front of a class had him stumbling over his words.

When he went back to his alma mater, Robert E. Lee High School, as a candidate, many students signed up to volunteer for his campaign. They told the teachers that they're usually bored by guest speakers, but enjoyed his presentation.

“It was a really good response,” he said.

He urged students to follow their passion, which Hammer says would be far more feasible with Libertarians in government. “We wouldn't become as dependent on systems that feed off the government. We'd become freer people — sole proprietors, more innovative, doing more of what we're passionate about,” he said.

Following his own passions, Hammer resigned his two corporate positions, and is now building businesses in sales and publishing. And fighting for liberty.

• **Campaign Website:** WMHammer.com

Okla. ballot access signature requirement comes down from stratosphere

By Bob Johnston
and Carla Howell

While Oklahoma still has the strictest petitioning requirement in the nation for a presidential candidate not running as a Democrat or Republican, the signature requirement was dramatically reduced in May when Gov. Fallin signed Bill 2181 into law.

The bill lowered the number of signatures required for newly qualifying parties from 5 percent of the gubernatorial vote (which, for 2016, would have been 41,188 signatures) to 3 percent (24,712 signatures).

Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform (OBAR), a coalition of the Libertarian, Green, and Constitution Parties, championed the bill. OBAR has been fighting since 2004 to reform Oklahoma's archaic ballot access laws.

2000 was the last year that the Libertarian Party, or any non-establishment party, had a partisan candidate on the state ballot. Fundraising for a petition drive to place the LP on the ballot in Oklahoma in 2016 is under way, aided by a generous donation of matching funds from Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*.

In other states:

Alabama: The Senate committee passed Bill S.B. 221, but it went no further. The bill would have cut the required number of signatures for a state or federal candidate from 3 percent of the previous gubernatorial vote in the district of the office being sought to 1.5 percent.

Arizona: The 9th circuit court upheld a ruling in which voters wishing to register as Libertarian or Green must write in the party label, whereas the establishment parties have a box on the form that voters can check, if they desire.

After the opinion came out, the Libertarian and Green parties asked for reconsideration, and the court then asked the state to respond, a sign that the court is seriously considering granting a rehearing.

Arkansas: The bad news is that in May, Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed S.B. 8 into law, which moves the 2016 primaries from late May to early March, and which moves the petition deadline for new parties to September 2015.

The bill also forces new parties to choose all their 2016 nominees no later than November 2015. No state has ever

forced new parties to pick all their nominees for a November even-numbered election an entire year before the election. The Libertarian Party is considering a lawsuit to strike the new deadline.

The good news is that a signature drive funded largely by the Libertarian National Committee finished in June and succeeded in placing all Libertarians who run for partisan offices in 2016, including president, on the ballot.

This is the third straight general election cycle that the LPAR has successfully petitioned statewide to get candidates on the ballot. Before 2012, Arkansas was the only state where the LP had not been able to run partisan candidates, other than for president.

The Arkansas Green Party has announced it will not field any candidates, except for president, in 2016 because of financial constraints.

California: The state supreme court refused to hear the case *Rubin v. Padilla*, which challenged the top-two primary system. California voters now have fewer choices on their general election ballots for Congress and partisan state office than any country in the world except for China, North Korea, and Vietnam, according to Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News*.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit will soon file a request with the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

Florida: An initiative for a top-two primary system similar to those in California and Washington state was started, but appears to be inactive at this time, according to Richard Winger.

Maryland: Bill H.B. 626 had been introduced in the recent General Assembly session to lower the threshold of registered voters for a recognized political party from 1 percent to 10,000. The bill died in committee.

Nevada: S.B. 69 was signed into law in June. It improves the petition deadline

for newly qualifying parties from April to June, and improves the independent candidate petition deadline from February to June. This change was made in response to a lawsuit challenging the early deadlines.

The LP is already on the ballot in Nevada. However, this improvement is another demonstration that lawsuits can and frequently do result in better ballot access.

New Hampshire: The U.S. District Court heard the appeal of the New Hampshire LP on July 13, the second of two hearings, of a bill passed last year that prevents party petitioning in the state before Jan. 1 of the election year. Libertarians Rich Tomasso and John Babiarez were the only two witnesses. Their testimony went on for four hours and 15 minutes. The hearing went well. The judge said there will be a decision by the middle of August 2015.

Ohio: It was revealed in a lawsuit that the Ohio Republican Party paid a whopping \$592,000 in legal expenses to the law firm that represented the individual who challenged the 2014 Libertarian primary petition for Charlie Earl. Last year, the state chair of the Ohio Republican Party testified that the Republican Party had not been involved in the challenge.

Earl needed 500 petition signatures to get his name on the Libertarian Party primary ballot. Republican Gov. John Kasich successfully challenged the signatures on the basis of an obscure technicality. As a result, the Ohio LP had no gubernatorial candidate on the ballot and lost its ballot access.

An ex-staffer for Kasich arranged for the lawsuit, at the time claiming he would fundraise to cover the costs. Kasich has since announced his bid for president in 2016.

Pennsylvania: In a victory for the LPPA, three ballot access laws were struck down by a U.S. district court judge in March: 1) petitioners no longer have to get each petition sheet notarized; 2) voters may now sign for more than one general

election petition per office; 3) out-of-state petitioners may now work in the state. The state had until June to appeal the decision but chose not to.

South Dakota: Bill 69, which made it more difficult for non-recognized parties and independent candidates to petition, was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. A petition to bring the new law to referendum, funded primarily by Democrats, was successful. Thus, the law will not take effect in 2016, and voters will have the option to repeal it in the 2016 general election.

The South Dakota LP and its chair, Ken Santema, are also fighting the early deadline set by Bill 69 in court. They are co-plaintiffs in an ACLU lawsuit challenging the state's early deadline for petitioning, which is now March 1, one of the earliest deadlines in the state.

Texas: Bill H.B. 464 had been introduced to require minor political parties to pay filing fees similar to major political parties. These fees cost as much as \$5,000. The bill had passed the House Elections Committee, but did not advance any further.

The Libertarian Party is on the ballot for its 2016 presidential ticket in 31 states. The Green Party is on the ballot in 21 states, and the Constitution Party in 14 states.

Richard Winger contributed to this article.



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Libertarians can reach minority voters with the right message

By Benjamin Smith

For too long, the assumption has been that African American voters will vote only for Democrats because social programs are the sole issue that concerns them. This is not true. There is opportunity to spread the Libertarian message with minority, lower-middle income, and poor communities across the United States.

Republicans have used intimidation and vote nullification tactics to remove African Americans from the electorate. The result is an under-served and under-represented segment of the population open to new messages.

The failed War on Drugs has turned predominantly poorer black neighborhoods into battlegrounds, as escalated law enforcement presence coupled with gang activities and street crime brings the battle for control into the front yards of law-abiding citizens who are already struggling for simple survival.

Younger voters, by and large, are not voting. A Pew Research poll found that 6 in 10 persons did not vote and fully 35 percent of those potential voters were under the age of 30, largely minorities from poorer areas of the

country. These numbers represent a segment of the population that could significantly change the outcome of any election from the national level to the local. The study also found that a large majority had family incomes of less than \$30,000 per year and are frequently underemployed.

The Libertarian message to these voters has not been received because many times the areas in question are being largely ignored. The question then becomes: how do Libertarian candidates reach minority voters?

The poor, working poor and lower-middle income economic brackets experience the overreach and intrusiveness of government and law enforcement in their everyday lives. The Pew research study found that one in five African American males under 30 are either incarcerated, have been arrested, or are convicted felons, more than 80 percent of which were charged with a drug-related crime.

Jobs and economic opportunity are touchstone issues for the African American community.

Interestingly, a large percentage of the persons who are receiving some type of government assistance, mainly food stamps, are registered to vote because most states offer voter registration to those applying for government

benefits. Still, they are not voting.

Offering real solutions to this community is the only way to inspire them to go to the polls for Libertarian candidates. A message of a less-intrusive government and an end to the drug war, along with the LP's deep and abiding faith in free market economics, would be well-accepted.

Candidates for local office, such as city or county councils, should highlight plans to curtail police activity in neighborhoods. For state and national candidates, the theme of ending the drug war along with economic opportunity should be central to minority outreach.

Personal interaction with voters is key in any minority strategy. Candidates must make their presence known in the communities where votes are being sought. House-to-house walks along with community and civic meetings are integral. Voters who have never exercised their right to vote have to be inspired to do so. This will come only through personal interaction.

Benjamin Smith is a political strategist and author based in Savannah, Ga. He's been working and consulting for campaigns for 27 years, formerly Republican, now Libertarian.

Libertarian Party Solution: End police militarization

In Lebanon, Tennessee, 61-year-old John Adams was watching television with his wife when police, looking for an alleged drug offender, pounded on their door and kicked it in. The police claim they identified themselves; Adams's wife Lorriane claims otherwise. Adams fired his legally-obtained shotgun in self-defense, assuming they were criminal intruders. The police shot and killed him instantly.

The officers later discovered they had entered the wrong house.

Adams is among the hundreds of innocent Americans who have been slain by overly-aggressive law enforcement.

Police forces around the United States are becoming dangerously militarized in both tactics and equipment, owing largely to the War on Drugs and the federal government's selling them military surplus — including armored personnel carriers, rocket-propelled grenades, and tactical equipment.

Libertarians call for immediately ending police militarization. Police should be peacekeepers who protect the people of their communities and serve them with respect, not as an occupying army. Use of military surplus equipment and supplies by domestic police departments should be strictly prohibited.

Libertarians also call for immediately ending the disastrously failed War on Drugs and for repeal of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which provides for dispensation of military equipment to federal and state law enforcement agencies for "counter-drug activities." This will take away the pretext for excessive use of force and leave police with just one crime-fighting mandate: go after only those who pose a real threat to others. Crime will go way down, killings of the innocent will end, Americans will be safe from injustice in their homes and in the streets.



A SWAT team deployed on the streets of Ferguson, Mo.
Photo by Jamelle Bouie. (License: CC BY 2.0)

Libertarian Party Solution: End 'policing for profit'

This Libertarian solution has already been enacted in New Mexico.

In April 2015, Gov. Susana Martinez (R) signed H.B. 560, ending civil asset forfeiture by law enforcement in the state, a practice known as "policing for profit." It is one of several ugly laws that have sprung from America's failed and destructive drug prohibition.

Civil asset forfeiture allows police and prosecutors to seize someone's property without ever charging them with a crime, let alone convicting them. Police can then funnel those assets, including cash, back to their own departments.

This is an egregious conflict of interest. It motivates over-zealous police to confiscate property where there may have

been no crime. Poor minorities who can't afford lawyers to recoup their losses are often the victims.

Libertarians call for an immediate end to tyrannical, anti-American policing for profit. No personal property may be seized unless and until the accused is convicted of a crime. Proceeds should go to a general fund, not one that funds either prosecutors or police enforcement, remov-

ing the profit incentive.

We need to follow New Mexico's lead in every state and end civil asset forfeiture now. Poor people, especially minorities, will no longer suffer this injustice. Police will focus on real crime — not on profiteering. And if you're a peaceful, law-abiding citizen, your assets — and those of your loved ones — will be safe.

Libertarian political parties forming worldwide

By Elizabeth C. Brierly

Three promising political campaigns have emerged from the International Alliance of Libertarian Parties (IALP), which has grown quickly since its formation on March 6, into an alliance of 17 countries.

In Colombia, **Daniel Raisbeck**, former conservative candidate and now head of Libertario (the national Libertarian Party), is running for Mayor of Bogotá on Oct. 25. He's the first Libertarian candidate in Colombia's history.



Daniel Raisbeck

Raisbeck told the *PanAm Post* that the "traditional politicians ... only understand politics from the state's point of view. ... They always think that more taxes are necessarily a good thing, that public spending is good, or that the state can solve every problem."

One of Raisbeck's key proposals is a massive reduction in the municipal bureaucracy, accompanied by tax cuts.

Raisbeck proposes a school voucher program. He and Libertario aim to convert all of Bogotá's state schools to charter schools.

He also proposes ending the government's ban on ride-sharing services. On July 14, the widely-read newspaper *Publimetro* featured Raisbeck in a full-page article with the headline, "Daniel Raisbeck: 'I'm the only candidate who supports Uber, one hundred percent.'" He argues that this will ease Bogotá's notorious traffic congestion. In contrast, his opponents, who are courting the Yellow Cab drivers' votes, support the ban.

"I am counting on the fact that many people here are libertarians without realizing it," he told *LP News*. "I hope to make voters aware that the new libertarian choice is the natural choice for those fed up with state corruption and incompetence."

"Our main strategy is simply being libertarian, and hence, different," he said. "We therefore have the liberty to call things what they are and make the case for

a very limited government. We have the advantage that over 80 percent of Colombians don't trust the traditional parties." He added, "Being by far the youngest candidate also helps." Raisbeck is 33 years old.

At press time, Raisbeck updated *LP News* that Libertario's team had surpassed its goal of 50,000 [valid] signatures and officially registered the campaign one day before the July 24 deadline.

The Colombia LP consists of several hundred members across the country, more than 90 percent of whom are under 30 years old.

"We are relying on free press and an efficient social media campaign. But talking to people on the street is invaluable," he said.

Raisbeck writes columns for several publications, including *Librement*, a Spanish-language blog of the Cato Institute.

• **Campaign website:** Libertario.co/perfil

In Canada, **Tim Moen**, Leader of the country's LP, is making a splash in his bid for prime minister. Election day is Oct. 19.

Moen has been an active libertarian for 10 years, but came to prominence after working with Neil Young to shoot footage for a film Young was producing. Young is an environmentalist whom Moen later felt compelled to "out" as hypocritical. The resultant publicity soon led to his being recruited to run for Parliament.

Initially he resisted, having argued that voting is immoral. But, inspired by Rep. Ron Paul, he took the leap and ran for Parliament in 2014.

During that race, a teenaged volunteer promoted the campaign by creating ads of Moen with such colorful slogans as, "I want gay married couples to be able to protect their marijuana plants with guns." Moen exploded onto the political scene and was soon elected leader of the LP of Canada.

The ad won Moen some high-profile interviews, including on Fox Business's *The Independents*.

When CNN asked him about the ad,



Tim Moen

In May, Moen spoke in Washington at the LP's state convention where he argued that "there's no freedom in playing it safe. ... The only freedom is found ... [when] you're at the front lines."

he explained that people correctly advocating civil liberties often fail to recognize certain other rights. "I want people to hear the message that our human right to self-ownership means that we can marry who we want, put what we want into our own bodies, and defend ourselves with guns," he said.

Moen is running again in 2015, and has even resigned from his cherished job as firefighting captain "to follow my calling," he said.

"I know I'm not going to become prime minister," he said. "There's a really good chance I may not even become a member of Parliament. That's not what this is about. ... Together, we're going to get a lot done for this cause of liberty."

In May, Moen spoke in Washington at the LP's state convention, where he argued that "there's no freedom in playing it safe. ... The only freedom is found ... [when] you're at the front lines."

Moen is also a former medic and business owner, and has done graduate studies in leadership. He lives in Calgary, Alberta.

• **Campaign website:** VoteMoen.com

Also in Canada, **Jeff Berwick** is running for Vancouver Centre Riding, similar to a congressional district in the United States. Berwick founded StockHouse Media Organization, the largest financial website in Canada, and is now founder and chief editor of *The Dollar Vigilante*, a well-known free-market web site, where he aims to free people from government and "the ravages of the central banks."



Jeff Berwick

Like Moen, Berwick, who calls himself an anarcho-capitalist, had misgivings about the political process. But he came to see "why trying to ignore the system isn't helping our cause and why getting involved in the system can have a multitude of benefits. The ... prime example being how Ron Paul ran for president and it created millions of libertarians in a matter of a few years."

Berwick wrote in his campaign announcement, "An excellent, and unused, way ... to affect government, and more importantly to educate the public on liberty, is to get involved in the system itself." The place he chose to do so is within Canada's Libertarian Party. "In the Libertarian Party's platform," Berwick wrote, "every stance is one of reducing government, and I support that."

One goal of Berwick's campaign is to bring as much attention as possible to the Libertarian Party." He wrote, "Part of the platform is to reduce taxes ... and I support any and all reductions in the size of government."

Another of Berwick's key proposals is to eliminate tariffs on foreign goods in order to save Canadian shoppers millions of dollars and to open up Canadian markets to the world. Canadians pay 30-50 percent more for many consumer goods than Americans do, as a result of high tariffs.

He would also like to see an end to government control over radio, television, and telecommunications. He posted on his Facebook page that "we want to end the CRTC [Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission] and give Canadians the freedom of choice they deserve."

Berwick has also hosted over 200 interviews on *Anarchast*, a popular anarcho-capitalist video podcast.

• **Campaign website:** Libertarian.ca/candidate/jeff-berwick

"An excellent, and unused, way ... to affect government, and more importantly to educate the public on liberty, is to get involved in the system itself," wrote Berwick in his campaign announcement.

Activist Blitz fights for Libertarian solutions in Maryland

By Elizabeth C. Brierly

Law: Maryland LP Vice chairman Eric Blitz can't get enough of it. Monitoring it, testifying about it, and partnering with coalitions to repeal it, are how this vigilant activist and attorney seems to invest most of his energies.



Eric Blitz

Blitz frequently addresses the state's General Assembly to promote bills decriminalizing and legalizing marijuana. He coordinates his testimonials with groups like the ACLU, Marijuana Policy Project, and NAACP.

The Marijuana Policy Coalition of Maryland quoted Blitz in a press release, saying, "The Libertarian Party of Maryland applauds the [successful] effort to decriminalize paraphernalia possession associated with small amounts of marijuana. While we hope it is a small step forward towards the important goal of completely ending marijuana prohibition in Maryland, we know that public opinion in our state is overwhelmingly in support of removing criminal penalties."

Blitz also testified on behalf of S.B. 651, a bill allowing expungement of any criminal conviction that was based on an act that is no longer a crime. This bill was passed, and the Governor signed it.

"This is strategically important," according to Blitz, "because ... if we can successfully remove criminal penalties through future legislation, we won't have

to promote separate expungement provisions. Expungement will automatically become an available remedy, a point that can be made to legislators seeking to bring positive change to their constituents."

In February, Blitz testified to the House Ways and Means Committee in favor of H.B. 626, a bill that would replace the current standard of a minimum of one percent of registered voters necessary to maintain ballot access, with a registration requirement of a minimum of 10,000 voters being affiliated with the party. This would give the MDLP, which has over 15,000 registered voters, permanent ballot status.

"While we had a much more receptive response before the House Ways and Means Committee, like last year's bill it failed to receive a vote from the committee," wrote Blitz. "We'll keep on trying each

year until we get this bill passed."

MDLP had already passed the other ballot-access test. Shawn Quinn, the 2014 gubernatorial candidate, received 1.5 percent of the vote in November, serving to keep the party on the ballot through 2016.

In addition to the bills on which he personally testified, Blitz monitored all bills in the 2015 Maryland General Assembly session, unearthing more than 27 relevant to Libertarians on topics that include civil asset forfeiture, access to public information, regulatory impact review, and police conduct. He compiled a thorough post-session report that was posted to the LPMD website, here: LPMaryland.org/2015-legislative-review

As MDLP's Vice Chair, Blitz helped with strategic planning when the party teamed with the Marijuana Policy Coalition. *continued on page 11...*

Libertarian candidate Loser gets a good rap in Virginia campaign

In July, Corey "Sage" Fauconier, campaign manager for Libertarian Carl Loser, released his catchy rap song "Nice: The Libertarian Theme" on CD Baby that he wrote for his candidate's campaign. Proceeds from sales of the song will go to Loser's campaign.

Loser (pronounced LO-zer) is running for state senate in Virginia's 10th district.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* featured the video, with the headline "Rap video a win for Libertarian Loser."

Fauconier, an independent hip-hop writer, wrote his campaign song to talk up Libertarian candidates, deride Big Government, and hit on issues from health care to marijuana to reducing government waste.

Fauconier says he was introduced to the LP when 2014 Virginia Libertarian candidates Robert Sarvis for U.S. Senate and James Carr for U.S. House participated in a candidate forum sponsored by the Richmond Crusade for Voters.

"Neither the Democratic or Republican Parties are working in our best interests," he said. "I just wanted to express my support for a party which wants change in our community. I hope that more African Americans seriously consider the Libertarian Party."

Robert "RoBeaTs" Wilkenson produced and arranged the instrumental for Nice: The Libertarian Theme. Jonathan "Skunk" Scott recorded the track. Reid Schiff recorded a video of it, viewable on YouTube: youtu.be/mKpaAibwGSo

Excerpt from the lyric of "Nice: The Libertarian Theme"

By Sage Fauconier

I'm a proud Libertarian.

Republicans and Democrats is just straight jibber jabberin'.

Sarvis and Carr ran on the LP ticket.

I seen the debate, man they sure looked wicked.

It's not who wins but how you play the game.

Major parties tryin' to treat voters like lames.

Common won an Oscar, hip hop can make change.

Speakin' eloquent while bustin' guns at the range.

Dis the truth you should wanna get wit me.

Blood fiyah tha mic and proclaim new liberty.

LPVA third parties no sin.

I'll prove it to you even the Loser can win!

Some can't play three teams on the field.

Underdogs usually keep it all the way real.

Cause we don't really have much to lose.

Politicians be control freaks and fools.

They out the loop so let's take 'em back to school.

Try the USA with Libertarian rule.

Reduce spending. Simplify tax.

Bureaucratic bloating; wasteful and wack.

Balance the budget, spend money with care

Government is wasteful and that's really not fair.

And marijuana; it's good for his people.

War on drugs is just wasteful and evil.

Improve industry; legalization of hemp

Jobs for the people; money well spent.

Lead by example; engage free trade.

Our party platform excellent, 'n' well laid.



With a car or house purchase you know what you'll pay.
Well shouldn't healthcare be the very same way?!
When you went to the doctor you THOUGHT you were ill.
Well, wait til you get your damn medical bill.

You want reform; how bout deregulation?!
More providers, low price across nation.
Not rocket science, it's just common sense.
Stop treatin' me like I'm stupid and dense.

Support the freedom to marry the freedom to carry.
Republicans 'n' Democrats opinions may vary,
but true liberty is what we are for.
If you disagree with that then shut the front door.

Top 10 reasons to run for office as a Libertarian Party candidate

1. People who used to ignore your Libertarian ideas will suddenly become interested in them.
2. The news media and issue advocacy groups will seek you out for your Libertarian proposals and publicize them on the Internet and in newspapers, radio, and/or TV.
3. You will learn how to campaign, build a support base, and build name recognition that you can use for a future run for office.
4. You'll turn more voters on to your Libertarian solutions by showing them exactly why liberty is the best solution to human problems.
5. You may provoke a response to your agenda from your opponents and move them in a Libertarian direction.
6. You'll provoke attacks on your Libertarian agenda — which is even better. It shows that you're talking truth to power and challenging the Big Government status quo.
7. Your campaign will give voters a choice — finally — to cast a vote for what they want instead of what they feel they must put up with.
8. Your campaign will impact other Libertarian campaigns, driving up each other's vote totals — and driving up the Libertarian vote total nationwide.
9. You'll look back on your campaign knowing that you helped to advance liberty in America — and all the blessings that it brings.
10. Your campaign will draw new members into the Libertarian Party. Some will become future Libertarian leaders and candidates.

**Thinking of
running for office?**

**Go to
LP.org/run-for-office**

Candidate recruiting under way

...continued from page 1

"I have always believed that the LP must have candidates in order for our message to be heard," he said. "Most people don't pay attention to politics until the election season every two years. If we aren't on the ballot and participating in that process, they will never hear about us."

To be sure that voters in his area had a choice, Brown has run for partisan office himself 15 times.

Coming off a major petition drive completed in June to obtain ballot access in the state, **Arkansas** Libertarians are working hard to recruit candidates for 2016. They must act quickly, because a new state law requires them to nominate their candidates by the first week in November 2015. An elections committee — consisting primarily of former LP candidates — has been formed to recruit candidates, new and old, to run for office under the Libertarian banner.

Nathan LaFrance, who ran for U.S. Senate in 2014, has already announced his bid for a U.S. House seat in 2016. He has received media coverage across the state, including in *Arkansas Talk Business and Politics* and the *City Wire*. Several other candidates have stepped forward to run for state legislature and in local races.

Newly elected LP Arkansas Chair Michael Pakko has been a prime force behind candidate recruitment as chair of the state party's elections committee during the past two electoral cycles, helping the state LP field 14 candidates in 2012 and 28 in 2014, including nine statewide candidates.

"Ideally, we would like to contest every partisan race in next year's general election, but we are aiming to at least double our candidate count again in 2016," Pakko said.

In **Maryland**, state LP Chair Bob Johnston aims to recruit candidates for all of the nine federal seats up for office in 2016 and all 15 Baltimore city council seats. As of July, he reports that five federal candidates and five council candidates have tentatively agreed to run.

"Baltimore needs a big dose of libertarianism," he said. "Police brutality perpetrated on Freddy Gray and other victims isn't the city's only problem. Years of big-government policies have left Baltimore on the verge of becoming the next Detroit. Libertarian candidates will offer voters a way to get this city back on its feet and ensure justice for its citizens."

Twelve Libertarians in **Hawaii** are considering a can-



Arkansas Libertarians Brian Shank and Stephen Wait deliver petitions to the Secretary of State's office, making 2016 candidate recruitment possible.

didacy in 2016. Their commitment to run is "pretty firm" as of July, according to LP Hawaii Chair Tracy Ryan.

"We have advised all those now interested [in running] to list friends, business associates, relatives, etc. and to start talking to them about a campaign," Ryan said. "I want potential candidates going to as many coffee hours as possible during 2015."

Ryan said they aim to recruit candidates in races that are likely to provide ballot access. "For the most part, that means state Senate races," she said.

Ryan notes that the party will focus on a half dozen candidates who could run strong campaigns for the legislature.

Michael Wilson, state chair for the **West Virginia** LP, reports that his party is likely to field candidates for all statewide offices (governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and attorney general), and for U.S. House in all three of the state's congressional districts.

David Moran, who ran for governor in 2012, will be running again for the top office. Davy Jones plans on running again for U.S. House of Representatives 2nd District, as he did in 2014. The party is talking with prospects for all the remaining targeted seats.

In **Oregon**, the former state chair, Wes Wagner, remains active with the party with a focus on recruiting candidates. He aims to field more Libertarians for office than the Oregon Republican Party does in 2016, and has recruited a

team of four recruiters around the state towards that end.

LP Oregon activist Kyle Markley set up Statements For Liberty, an Oregon PAC chartered to fund voter statements for candidates that will be included in the state's voter pamphlet, which is mailed to every voter in the state.

"Other candidates and candidate recruiters across the state are rolling up their sleeves and getting ready for 2016 — what may prove to be the most important election in the LP's history for new members, growth, and Libertarian votes," Wagner said in an email.

In **Colorado**, LP Campaigns Director Jack Woehr is going through the party's list of past candidates, plus those who inquired into running for office, to see who wants to run in 2016. Ten prospective candidates expressed interest as of July.

LPCO also obtained the list of registered Libertarians from the secretary of state's office. Woehr plans to send a welcome message to every one of them and then pass those names on to Libertarian candidates running in their respective districts.

"Candidates who register committees, build a team, and start raising money have the inside track to any Libertarian nomination," he said.

In **Alabama**, Libertarians are collecting signatures to get on the ballot in Jefferson County, which includes Birmingham, and aiming to recruit 21 candidates to run in the county (see page 13 for more details).

In **Illinois**, two candidates have declared their candidacies for 2016. Chris Michel, who was the Libertarian for Secretary of State in 2014, is running for U.S. Senate. Scott Schluter, who is currently chairman of the Southern Illinoisan LP, is running for the Illinois General Assembly. There is also word that a former Chicago Republican will seek a Libertarian nomination.

In **Pennsylvania**, newly elected state chair and elected Libertarian councilman Shawn Felty brings a strong penchant for candidate recruitment to state leadership. Earlier this year, Felty recruited 10 candidates for offices in his home county of Schuylkill to run in 2015, including county commissioner, auditor, and various borough council and township supervisor seats.

"At the end of the day, running Libertarian candidates is what this party is all about," Felty said. "It's the way we reach voters and expand the liberty movement. It's how we convince them that we can tame the beast, we can cut taxes, we can get government off our backs — and be free."

Alive Free Happy attracts new, young Libertarians

Jason Wu and Matthew “Boomer” Shannon know how to have fun while helping young people develop marketable skills and activating new Libertarian volunteers.

Now in their 20s, Wu and Shannon have been active with the LP since their teens, and were elected in May to the LPCA Executive Committee. They’re recruiting other young activists in droves with their friendly style, calling their growing social network of activists “Alive Free Happy.”

“It was a matter of reaching a tipping point,” Wu said at a local gathering of Libertarians. “At first it was a handful of us working on [California ballot initiative] ‘Regulate Marijuana Like Wine,’ then it started to take off.”

Wu, Shannon, and their crew hold regular social events as one of their recruiting methods.

“It started casually,” Shannon said. “We would hang out together. We are all friends, and in between petitioning missions, we would have a good time playing board games and whatnot. Before we knew it, more of our friends were also hanging out and in no time were identifying as Libertarians themselves. Those friends started bringing more friends and now we are hurting; we have run out of space.”

“It’s not just game time,” Wu said, “Some of these guys are developing professionally thanks to local members willing to mentor them. Our hard work on the streets got the attention of some really talented members established in their professions — Libertarians who saw potential for more than activism out of these young folks.”

Shannon, who previously served a term as the LPCA Southern Vice Chair, said that more than one college-aged activist has gone from rags to riches thanks to the skills they picked up from their group’s support.

“Networking is powerful stuff,” he



Alive Free Happy founders Jason Wu (left) and Boomer Shannon (middle, back) work the crowd at the Palos Verdes Estates street fair in Los Angeles County.

“People already know that the system is rotten; we don’t have to sell that. What people really want to know is that we have a plan.”

— Jason Wu, LPCA Executive Comm.

said. “These guys learn early how to talk to people by doing tabling. Either hawking a petition or doing an Operation Politically Homeless booth, we get our new guys calling out to people to take our quiz, while others help prospects score themselves. After learning how to break down the barriers of reaching for a goal, these young activists get primed for wanting to succeed

in more, and they do.”

More seasoned Libertarians also participate with the group’s outreach.

“Older Libertarians are important for inculcating the new young prospects with Libertarian philosophy and applying it effectively to campaigns,” Wu said. “We always have an anchor guy, someone to talk more in-depth about libertarianism, with those who show more interest.”

To Wu and Shannon, closing the deal on a new prospect means making a friend who has promised to come to their next meeting or gathering. They even have a maxim to guide them: Politics is about people, and the number one skill for success is making friends.

“We don’t argue with them or tell them where they are wrong when we do the Worlds Smallest Political Quiz,” Wu

noted. “We tell them why we are alike. We also tell them about the beautiful world we might live in if we were more free. People already know that the system is rotten; we don’t have to sell that. What people really want to know is that we have a plan.”

Alive Free Happy members are aiming high for the coming election cycle. Their group of activists is lining up venues for getting party members together and talking strategy. The Southern California Regional Conference is one such project they have been involved in for the last seven years.

“It’s the members that make the wins in a party. We have to keep recruiting and building our base or we are sunk,” Wu said.

“Everything we do involves us having a pool of people,” he continued. “We want to recruit candidates, but it is only from membership we can do that. Without membership, we have no donors or anything. It is activism that draws in the people and it is activism that moves the wheels of a campaign,” Shannon said.

Shannon has worked as a professional political consultant and was the campaign manager for several moderately funded LP campaigns, including the Steve Collett for 32nd Congressional in 2012 and a special election for the 36th Congressional in 2011. He was also the assistant state coordinator for a marijuana ballot initiative.

“When you have a small army of determined young activists you can do a lot with very little,” he said. “We didn’t win those campaigns, but we did build a remarkable group that is only getting bigger by the day. Next year, in 2016, we are going to have a lot of support for our candidates.”

Wu added, “By resolutely filling the ballot with Libertarian candidates, the state that leads the country in members hopes to once again lead the country in election success.”

Activist Blitz fights in Maryland

...continued from page 9

tion, together working hard to build support for the marijuana bills. He helped to organize a legislators-only forum, advocacy training for volunteers, a lobby night, testimony before the General Assembly committees, and legislative lobbying.

Blitz acts as the MDLP’s liaison to Marylanders for

Open Government, a network which helped pass three bills increasing transparency and lowering fees for Maryland Public Information Act requests.

Blitz was also state coordinator for the Gov. Gary Johnson 2012 campaign, after which he served as Eastern Regional Director for Our America Initiative, an organization founded by Johnson.

Blitz tells *LP News* that for the next legislative session, he plans to have more local Libertarians testify

on a wide range of bills, including an effort to submit written testimony on at least twenty bills on behalf of the party.

“I want to raise the profile of the MDLP in the state capitol in general,” he explained. “My hope is that by our gaining the reputation that we are relevant to the state’s political debates, not only will MDLP members have a greater appreciation for their role, but voters will eventually reward our candidates at the polls.”

LP joins second lawsuit to open presidential debates

The Libertarian Party joined Level the Playing Field (LPF), the successor group to Americans Elect, and the Green Party to file a lawsuit aimed at the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), a Democratic- and Republican-run agency that sets rules designed to exclude third parties and independents from presidential debates.

The lawsuit is filed against the Federal Election Commission (FEC), which is also run by Democrats and Republicans and which refuses to enforce laws that the CPD is blatantly violating.

“The Commission on Presidential Debates is another example of the two old parties working hand in hand to keep the American people from hearing real, bold ideas for how to fix this country,” said

Nicholas Sarwark, Chair of the Libertarian National Committee. “Nothing scares them more than having a fresh voice on that debate stage.”

The LPF lawsuit is separate from one being pursued by Our American Initiative (OAI), for which the LP is also a plaintiff. The OAI lawsuit calls for including any candidate in the presidential debates who is on the ballot in enough states to theoretically win a majority of the 538 electoral votes (270), which is enough to win the presidency. Under this rule, both the Libertarian and Green Party candidates would have qualified for debate inclusion in 2012.

The LPF lawsuit does not call for a specific remedy. However, the organization supports the idea of having an early competition to choose just one additional

candidate to join the Democrat and Republican nominees in debates. While that remedy would be an improvement over the current situation, it’s not the goal of the Libertarian Party.

The LP has not given its approval for the LPF remedy, arguing that it assumes that Democrats and Republicans are automatically entitled to debate inclusion and that it could result in a wealthy candidate buying his or her way into the debate without building the grassroots support that the LP has built over its 44 years of existence.

“Any candidate eligible for the Presidency and on enough ballots to be elected should be on the debate stage,” Sarwark said. “Anything else is unfair and perpetrates a fraud on the American voter.”

Highlights of July LNC meeting

By Alicia Mattson

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met July 18–19 in Alexandria, Va.

This was the first LNC meeting for two new regional representatives: Roland Riemers from Region 6 (IA, ID, IL, MD, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI), and Kevin Ludlow from Region 7 (AL, AR, LA, MS, OK, TX).

The LNC filled vacancies on three committees by electing Alicia Mattson to the Advertising & Publications Review Committee, Ed Marsh to the Convention Oversight Committee, and Gary E. Johnson to the Ballot Access Committee.

Norm Olsen gave a presentation about Nationbuilder’s software as a potential means of assisting state affiliates with their membership management database needs. The IT Committee was tasked with doing further research and bringing a more formal proposal to the LNC for consideration at its next session.

The Convention Oversight Committee has started its search for a 2018 convention site and hopes to bring finalist bids to the LNC for a vote in November. They hope to begin selling convention packages for 2016 some time this fall.

Following years of lobbying efforts, including the LNC’s hiring of a lobbyist this year, the Oklahoma legislature changed their ballot access restrictions so that they are less horrible than before, though it’s still a high threshold. The LNC continues to fundraise to finance a petition drive there for our 2016 candidates. In a further effort to improve ballot access restrictions, the LNC voted to join a lawsuit in Kentucky to eliminate a law that prohibits a voter from signing two petitions for competing candidates in the same election cycle.

The LNC voted to change the party logo to a design that had been nicknamed “Torch Eagle.” Look for this new logo to start appearing on our promotional materials soon.

The next in-person meeting of the LNC will take place Nov. 14–15 in Orlando, Fla.



Libertarian Party—issued news release:

Why the Republican Party is equally guilty of Obamacare

Republican politicians and their allies are wailing over the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling which affirmed provisions of Obamacare, blaming the president for the onerous, 17,000-page body of law that is driving up the cost of health insurance premiums and reducing health care access for Americans.

But Republicans are just as much to blame for Obamacare as the president.

During the 2012 primary election, presidential candidate Mitt Romney and other Republican politicians ran on repeal of the law. But as soon as Romney secured the GOP nomination, he changed his rhetoric to “repeal and replace.” Most Republican politicians quickly followed suit, punting on the prospect of outright repeal.

Republicans continue to chant the “repeal and replace” mantra today, long after Romney lost his bid.

Republican politicians, to the horror of their rank and file constituency, have long been enemies of health freedom. Their transgressions include:

- Republican politicians refused to defund Obamacare despite holding majorities in the US House and Senate.
- Republicans nominated Mitt Romney for president in 2012, despite the fact that he championed an earlier version of Obamacare — “Romneycare” — as governor of Massachusetts. Republican governor Romney proposed, lobbied for, and signed into law his socialized medicine scheme — without any prompting from Massachusetts Democrats. He partnered with Democratic politician and darling of socialized medicine advocates, Ted Kennedy, to foist his decree upon the citizens of Massachusetts, which he revealed after they elected him.
- Republican president George W. Bush appointed John Roberts to be Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court — where he twice

ignored the Constitution and the law to uphold Obamacare.

- Republican president Ronald Reagan appointed Justice Kennedy to the U.S. Supreme Court — where he also blatantly ignored the law to uphold Obamacare in last week’s ruling.
- In 2003 Republican president George W. Bush championed the largest expansion of Medicare since its enactment by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965.

These actions show that Republican politicians not only want to keep Obamacare. They helped to pass and sustain it, one of the most grotesque violations of Article One, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution in U.S. history.

“At its core, the ACA is big government threatening ordinary Americans with penalties if they don’t buy insurance from big corporations,” said Nicholas Sarwark, Chair of the Libertarian National Committee. “Republicans invented it; Democrats passed it; Republicans fully funded it; and a Republican-appointed Chief Justice has twice contorted the English language to uphold it.”

Republican-bolstered Obamacare:

- forces millions of Americans to buy insurance coverage that they do not want or need and often cannot afford. Insurance lobbyists and their clients love it; families’ earnings and savings are drying up paying for it.
- mandates that small businesses must buy medical insurance they cannot afford, forcing many to close their doors.
- raises the cost of insurance co-pays and deductibles — which today cost more than plain old insurance used to cost.
- results in insurance companies canceling existing policies, leaving Americans uninsured.
- shortens the supply of doctors, forcing many to wait months for care and to suffer in the process, sometimes seriously jeopardiz-

continued on page 16...

AFFILIATE News And Events

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Alabama

Petitioning and recruiting 2016 candidates

The Libertarian Party of Alabama held its annual convention and elected leadership for the upcoming year in Birmingham, Ala., on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Guest speakers included Stephen Bradley of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) presenting on the failed drug war, and Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict conducting a seminar on political fundraising.

Leigh LaChine, a Birmingham resident, was elected to a third term as the party's state executive committee chair. LaChine also serves as chair of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance and is the managing member of an environmental consulting, testing, and training firm.

"I wanted to thank all of our members and activists that took time out of their schedules to attend the annual convention," LaChine said. "Our volunteers have done an incredible amount of work to make the Libertarian Party of Alabama what it is today."

He continued, "The state party ran a

slate of 13 candidates last fall, the first time we have had multiple candidates on the ballot since 2002. Additionally, the Libertarian Party of Alabama is currently conducting ballot access petitioning for Jefferson County (5,000 signatures) and is looking for qualified candidates for 17 constable positions, two school board positions, county treasurer, and county assistant treasurer for the 2016 election cycle."

Other members elected to the State Executive Committee were Charles Kessler as vice chair, Nicole Jordan as secretary, and Ross Lowe as treasurer. Charles Kennedy was elected to an at-large representative position, with James Cargo serving as an additional at-large representative. The four regional representative positions were filled by Tim Cowles, Colin Albea, Amanda Beshears-Cook, and Dennis Knizely.

Arkansas

Arkansas LP gains ballot access

For the third consecutive electoral cycle, the Libertarian Party of Arkansas will have ballot access in 2016. The party submitted 15,709 petition signatures to the Arkansas secretary of state's office on June 2, and were notified on June 23 that a sufficient number of signatures were valid to meet the 10,000-signature requirement.



LP Arkansas Chair Michael Pakko fills out paperwork to apply for "new" political party status in the secretary of state's office.

Due to a recent change in the primary election schedule, the LPAR will be required to register its candidates during the first week of November 2015. The party is now in the process of recruiting candidates, and will hold a nominating convention in late October. Nathan LaFrance, the Libertarian candidate for Arkansas's U.S. Senate seat in 2014, has already achieved statewide publicity by announcing that he will run for the state's 3rd Congressional District seat.

California

New state leadership, big goals

The California LP convention was held on May 31 in Las Vegas, in conjunction with the Nevada LP's convention and the Libertarian Political Expo (LPEX) conference. Delegates elected new party leaders who promised to revitalize the LP's largest state affiliate, which has not lived up to its potential over the last few years.

The new chair is Ted Brown, a small-business owner from Pasadena, who is a long-time activist, candidate recruiter, and candidate. His goals for the party include rebuilding the declining membership, creating a new user-friendly website, re-establishing a monthly newsletter, moving to a more usable state office, revitalizing county organizations, establishing more student groups, and recruiting and promoting LP candidates for the 2016 election.

The other new officers are Brian Thieme (northern vice chair), Jonathan Jaech (southern vice chair), Kevin Duewel (secretary), and Emily Tilford (treasurer). At-large Executive Committee members are Mark Hinkle, Boomer Shannon, Michael Sertic, Jeff Hewitt, Ray Fostore, Eric Vaughnes, Jason Wu, Jarrett Tilford, Leon Weinstein, and Jim Hoerricks. Alternates are David Bowers and Gale Morgan.

Illinois

Organizing at the local level statewide

As thermometers swell and budgets fail in yet another typical Illinoisan summer, Libertarian movement can be seen in all parts of the state.

Illinois's State Convention was held in Springfield, on July 31 and Aug. 1. Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark gave our banquet's keynote

speech, and a group of candidates already beginning 2016 campaigns were in attendance. The two-day event hosted a number of workshops, the ever-popular Libertarian Jeopardy, and our Annual Auction, which is the year's largest fundraiser.

Among the candidates throwing early hats into the fray are Chris Michel for U.S. Senate — [FB.com/ChrisMichelforIllinois](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisMichelforIllinois) — who was our candidate for Illinois Secretary of State in 2014, and Scott Schluter for Illinois's General Assembly — scottschluterforliberty.com — who is currently chairman of a Southern Illinoisan Libertarian Party. There is also word of a former Chicago Republican planning to seek a Libertarian nomination.

LP Illinois state Chair Lex Green is near the end of a series of regional summits held throughout the state to inform and prepare party members for a new stage of activism as we approach becoming an established party in Illinois. Area chapters are coming together to learn about the Precinct Committeeman Project, an initiative designed to lead members toward becoming Libertarian leaders in their neighborhoods.

The heat is just beginning, but Illinois Libertarians are looking to keep it hot far into the year to come.

Indiana

30 partisan candidates on ballot this fall

Years of grassroots organizing paid off in 2015 with 30 local candidates filed in partisan races in 13 counties. All of the candidates were recruited at the county level or approached by local Libertarian activists. The candidates include four candidates for mayor: Jaime Juquin McKinney for mayor of Frankfort, Nick Hamill for mayor of Michigan City, Robert Jorwiak for mayor of Anderson, and Kamara Gard for mayor of Richmond. Susan Bell is running for re-election, seeking her third term as Hagerstown Judge. Indianapolis had the most local candidates with six City Council District representative candidates. Anderson came in a close second with five candidates.

In addition to campaigns, the party has been well represented at events and county fairs. Marion County had a float and a booth at the Indianapolis Pride parade and celebration. Close to 300 requests for additional information were collected at the booth using the Advocates for Self-Government's "World's Smallest Political Quiz."

continued on page 14...

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

...continued from page 13

Kansas

Two libertarian video series online

Congratulations to Libertarians Anthony Roy, who was elected to a seat on the Bogue City Council; and James Holland, who has been named executive director of the Abilene Area Chamber of Commerce.

The LPKS Executive Committee officers, elected at the April state convention, are Rob Hodgkinson, chair; Sharon DuBois, vice chair; William Carey, secretary; Ric Koehn, treasurer; Joey Frazier, 1st District coordinator; Kris Logan, 2nd District coordinator; Chris Clemmons, 3rd District coordinator; and David Loomis, 4th District coordinator.

Every month, The Libertarian Party of Saline County (LPSC) produces and broadcasts *Liberty TV*, a message of personal freedom, personal responsibility, and limited government. *Liberty TV* is a co-production of the LPSC and *The Liberty Papers*, a media project managed by DC Hannah, the LPSC chair. Previous episodes of *Liberty TV* are archived at: lpks-salina.org/liberty-tv/

Kansas Libertarians Today is a new YouTube video series. Clemmons and Wyandotte County Chair RasPatrick Allen are breaking down issues involving both current events and aspects of Libertarianism. The videos are available at: bit.ly/1gPwycJ

The latest edition of the quarterly LPKS newsletter, *The Free Kansan*, is now available online at: lpks.org/2014/10/07/free-kansan/

Massachusetts

Hosting October LP presidential debate

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts is launching new press campaigns on Libertarian issues that are already known to be extremely popular with the public. The First, "No To Boston Olympics," has a Facebook page, uses Facebook advertising, and ties the message to the Libertarian Party. Others, including "Fathers' Rights" and "End the Surveillance State," are anticipated soon.

Rick Marciano is running for Beverly

Ward 3 city councilor. He is providing leadership for the North Shore anti-Common Core movement. Several other Libertarians have expressed an interest in running for municipal office; the State Committee is providing guidance and assistance.

Our state convention is Saturday, Oct. 17, in Worcester. We are having a presidential debate for declared candidates planning to run as Libertarians. Candidates currently expected to attend include Daryl Perry, Marc Feldman, Cecil Ince, Steve Kerbel, Steven Childs, and (tentatively) Joy Waymire.

New York

New leadership; 5 well-qualified candidates

On April 25, 2015, Mark Axinn stepped down as the chairman of LPNY and the delegates to the annual convention elected Dr. Mark Glogowski to be the 2015-16 chairman. Mark Axinn stated, "After five years as state chair, I am delighted that the delegates today chose a terrific team to move forward in our mission of promoting freedom-loving candidates to the voters in New York."

The 2015-16 lineup of LPNY State officers includes Jim Rosenbeck and Chris Padgett as vice chairmen; Blay Tarnoff, secretary; Gary Treisman, treasurer; and Chris Edes, Phil Ricci, Kevin Wilson, Brian Waddell, and Robert Porter as the five at-large representatives on the State Committee.

The NY Libertarians were honored by having LNC Vice Chair Arvin Vohra and Region 8 Alternate Representative Joshua Katz join them at the convention. After the luncheon and Arvin's remarks to the delegates, the delegates broke out into work sessions, after which they came back with a fairly uniform consensus for a plan to grow the LPNY.

The new chairman set goals for the LPNY that focused on chapter development, Libertarian voter registration, recognition of registered Libertarians as members of the party at the county chapter level, and development of social media/communications resources. Dr. Glogowski stated that he believes that with a commitment on the part of the LPNY members and with the proper resources, "The LPNY

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania issued this press release on June 17, 2015.

Denying Pennsylvanians access to medical cannabis is cruel punishment for those suffering from a variety of illnesses

In response to actions by PA State Representative Matt Baker (R, 68th District) blocking a vote on Senate Bill 3 — which would legalize the use of cannabis for medical purposes (a.k.a. "medical marijuana") — Matthew Schutter, chairman of the Lehigh County Libertarian Party and candidate for Carbon County sheriff, issued the following statement on behalf of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania:

"Citizens in 23 states plus the District of Columbia have access, with a doctor's prescription, to medical cannabis. This substance provides them with relief from symptoms associated with chemotherapy, AIDS, PTSD, glaucoma, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions. For many medical cannabis patients, it is the drug of last resort and the only thing that provides them with relief — something that doctors and patients alike will attest to, and which is backed up by a growing body of medical research.

"But that's not enough for Rep. Baker, who — in his capacity as chairman of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Health Committee — has blocked a vote on Senate Bill 3 because the legalization of medical cannabis could 'lead to additional harm.'

"What he fails to grasp is that all medicines, from aspirin to zolmitriptan, have the potential to lead to harm in certain instances, particularly if abused. And yet Rep. Baker doesn't seem to be espousing that we return

only to the use of leeches to treat medical conditions.

"While the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes remains a divisive issue, there should be no controversy in allowing patients under the care of a doctor access to a drug that can provide them with real, documented benefits.

"It is interesting to note that Rep. Baker has received more than \$32,000 in campaign contributions from pharmaceutical and health products companies. We have to wonder who he really represents: 'Big Pharma' or the thousands of Pennsylvanians who might benefit from access to this drug?

"It's time for Rep. Baker to put the interests of the citizens of this Commonwealth ahead of his own personal biases (and the corporate interests that have funded his elections) and allow this vote to proceed. People will continue to suffer needlessly until he does."

The national Libertarian Party Platform's plank on crime and justice contains the following statements: "We favor the repeal of all laws creating 'crimes' without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, since only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed crimes. Individuals retain the right to voluntarily assume risk of harm to themselves." The LPPA agrees and believes that the time has come for medical cannabis in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

can begin an exponential growth pattern (10x per year) that will make the LPNY the most dynamic political power in New York state within the next four years."

Even without a national or statewide race, five well-qualified and passionate Libertarians have stepped up this year to preach the Libertarian message of economic freedom and personal liberty as Libertarian candidates.

Gary Triestman, a member of the Hudson Valley chapter and the treasurer of the LPNY, is running for the Town Justice seat in the Town of Woodstock, N.Y. One of Gary's observations is that, "As good as our legal system is, and the laws are usually

written well, it is troubling that judges are often the sticking point in achieving justice for citizens, and are too often overly biased in favor of the government. I believe that judges can get lazy and rubber stamp the state's case against defendants. It is not right to convict someone without giving him a full chance to prove his innocence, and to consider and respect his defense as being just as valid as the state's prosecution."

Lisa Whitehead, a member of the Genesee County Chapter, is running for a seat on the City of Batavia, New York City Council. "My focus has been exces-

continued on page 15...

Secretive Trans-Pacific Partnership trade bill lets foreign governments and foreign special interests control American medical care, banking, the Internet, and even civil liberties



LP-issued news release:

Republicans howled when Nancy Pelosi famously said, “We have to pass [Obamacare] so that you can find out what is in it.” Now GOP lawmakers, who control the U.S. House are following suit in their passage of a new Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade bill.

After rejecting an earlier version of the bill last week, the House passed a new TPP bill on June 18 that gives President Obama carte blanche to negotiate and sign a massive anti-American trade treaty with 11 other Pacific nations without public oversight or news coverage. They’ll have a short period of time, after the hundreds-of-pages-long treaty is finally published, to cast an up-or-down, take-it-or-leave-it vote.

Although Congress will get to see the text of the final treaty before the final vote, they and the American public will have insufficient time to review it. Congress will be under intense pressure to pass it, and serious ob-

jections will likely be given short shrift. This appears to be their plan, allowing them to avoid public scrutiny of TPP’s provisions until after it is passed and the heat is off.

“The two old parties will happily work together to get special favors for particular industries and interests, even if they have to hide the specifics from the American people to do so,” said Nicholas Sarwark, chair of the Libertarian National Committee.

While the current version of the treaty remains hidden from public view, portions of it have been released by WikiLeaks. They already show that it betrays and trumps the U.S. Constitution, sells out American freedoms, and grants foreign governments vast control over American medicine, the Internet, banking services, intellectual property, and civil liberties. It also grants multi-national corporations the right to sue the U.S.



government where domestic companies are forbidden to do so.

“The Libertarian Party opposes TPP and other secretive pacts being negotiated between the U.S. and countries worldwide, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and the Trade In Services Agreement (TISA),” Sarwark said. “The Libertarian Party supports free trade with all people and countries around the world. Real free trade is the reduction of barriers and the de-escalation of trade wars — not secret negotiations over winners and losers.”

“The vast majority of job losses in America did not result from trade agreements,” he continued. “The real culprits are the politicians and special interests who push for onerous government regulations, high taxes, and trade barriers that weaken American companies and which also prohibit American families from openly and freely shopping for the best buys for their families.”

“To actually help the American economy, we should simply repeal laws and withdraw from trade agreements that violate the Constitution or restrict free and open trade. This will stimulate the American economy, preserve and expand our diminishing freedoms, and maintain our sovereignty as a nation,” Sarwark said.

AFFILIATE News And Events

...continued from page 14

sive taxes, foreclosed/vacant houses, and infrastructure — like sidewalks. Some of (these issues) the current council has been addressing since my run two years ago. I would also like to target term limits to keep the attitudes and ideas fresh for Batavia.” Lisa made excessive taxes a focus of her last campaign, focusing on “lower property taxes to make city structures appealing to potential new businesses and look for ways to reduce other impediments to business.”

Robert Porter, a member of the Capital District chapter, is running for a position on the Albany County Legislature. He is concerned about the county’s failure to properly address a number of issues: crude oil rail trains standing around are a threat to every resident; “Soldier On” and the “Justice for Our Veterans Act” would help our veterans locally and save many troubled veterans from incarceration if properly implemented, and “they could even result ... in a positive cash flow”; the

convention center being built in Albany is a “dinosaur” that “can’t compete. ... It’s going to be a drain on already limited tax dollars”; the repressive “cabaret law” has caused numerous live venues to close because of the exorbitant cost of the fees; and while the red light cameras’ revenue is already budgeted for the fiscal year, the lights are not even working yet.

Paul Koksvik is planning to run for the mayor of Newburgh, N.Y. (Orange County), the site of George Washington’s headquarters toward the end of the Revolutionary War. Paul writes, “I am tired of the gamesmanship, corruption and self interest. LIBERTY says I can run and ... BE THE CHANGE AGENT!” Paul is a very determined individual who fought alongside Erin Brockovich in 2012 and has kept the pressure on the New York state authorities concerning the long-forgotten toxic chemical spill in Leroy, N.Y., which is now being cleaned up. Paul stated, “Take back Newburgh where the Republic started ... and the rest of the country will follow!”

Craig Watters is running for Town

Council in Philipstown, N.Y. (Putnam County). When asked why he was running for office, Craig stated, “I want to see restraint on the size and reach of government. I believe in limited government involvement in our lives, and that our citizens can be trusted to govern themselves. Personal responsibility trumps the ever-increasing nanny state.” At the time of submission, Craig has already received the endorsement of the Independence, Republican, and Reform parties, and is looking forward to receiving the endorsement of the Conservative Party.

North Carolina

Voter trends mirror duopoly discontent

Voter registration trends in North Carolina illustrate the growing national dissatisfaction with the Democratic and Republican parties. Since 2010, the combined total of registered Democrats and Republicans has declined by 1 percent per year. At the same time, the total of unaffiliated voters has increased by 4 percent per year and the number of registered Libertarians is up 25 percent annually.

North Carolina registers voters by

state-recognized political party, which currently includes Democratic, Republican and Libertarian. All other voters are classified as unaffiliated.

These declines come at a time when the state’s population is growing by about 1 percent annually.

“That is to say, the Democrats and Republicans are not merely trailing the population growth, but actually show numerical declines over the past five and a half years,” observed J.J. Summerell, Libertarian Party of North Carolina chair.

He said that if these trends hold, unaffiliated voters in North Carolina will overtake and surpass Republicans within the next two years. In fact, unaffiliated voters already outnumber the Democrats or Republicans in nearly half of the state’s 100 counties. And they’re the largest voting group in four counties.

In December 2010, there were 2,772,665 registered Democrats, 1,965,339 registered Republicans, 1,475,511 unaffiliated voters, and 9,803 Libertarians.

By June 2015, Democratic registration declined to 2,623,234 and the Republicans were down to 1,934,979. Meanwhile, unaffiliated registrations were up to 1,755,124 and Libertarians increased to 26,572, an all-time high for the party.

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LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark and Executive Director Wes Benedict address crowd at one-year anniversary of the national LP headquarters office space.

Guilty of Obamacare

...continued from page 12

- ing their health.
 - imposes gobs of red tape and waste on medical practitioners and patients.
 - forces doctors to take actions that they believe are wrong and which fly in the face of their judgment and experience of what's best for patients' health.
 - denies patients their right to control and promote their own health.
 - creates dependence on government, undermining more effective methods to provide low-cost, high-quality, safe and effective health care.
 - invades patients' medical privacy.
- Sarwark contends, "We need to not only repeal Obamacare, but more importantly, remove the many laws and regulations that harm Americans' health and drive up costs. Specifically:
- "End insurance mandates on individuals and businesses so Americans are free to pursue the health care options of their choice. This will reverse the spiraling cost of monthly premiums, co-pays and de-

ductibles by forcing insurance companies to compete for your business.

- "End restrictions on who can sell health insurance, which will spur competition, lower costs even more, and give Americans more choice to get the coverage they want and need.
- "Repeal all restrictions on free clinics and other forms of charitable health care so low-income families have access to needed medical services without running to an emergency room or becoming dependent on fellow taxpayers.
- "Close down the heavy-handed regulatory powers of the FDA and allow the market to regulate drugs. This will make drugs far more safe and effective than they are today, expedite the development of life-saving cures, and dramatically reduce the price of prescription drugs and medical devices.
- "Relax licensing laws that prohibit qualified practitioners from providing safe, low-cost health care. This will lower costs of office visits and procedures while making health care more accessible around the clock."

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Neither Big Government party cracks 40% favorability in latest poll
- Libertarian Party four-decade advocacy for marriage equality pays off with US Supreme Court decision
- LP: Republican-controlled U.S. House votes to jack up military spending, skirt the sequester
- Take the poll: What's the most important impact of Libertarian campaigns?
- LNC chair interview: Controversial Patriot Act 'harmful' to U.S. security
- IVN: Even in third place, Libertarian Party has significant impact in elections
- Sputnik features Chair Nicholas Sarwark's comments on Clinton Foundation
- Campaign filing suggests GOP chairman lied in court about involvement in challenge that knocked Libertarian off Ohio ballot
- Statement on Baltimore riots

Media Buzz

"The biggest change in partisan affiliation in recent years is the growing share of Americans who decline to affiliate with either party: 39% call themselves independents, 32% identify as Democrats and 23% as Republicans, based on aggregated data from 2014.

"The rise in the share of independents has been particularly dramatic over the past decade."

Pew Research Center, 4/7/15

"Enough discontent in the two-party system — especially if the nation eventually faces a fiscal crisis like the one in Greece — could conceivably lead to the formation of successful additional parties or make the Libertarian Party more viable than it is today."

Idaho Press-Tribune, 7/14/15

"[O]n many issues, the views among people who call themselves libertarian do not differ much from those of the overall public."

Pew Research Center, 8/25/14

"Most of the country now supports gay marriage. Libertarians were there first. ...

"Just seven years ago, in the 2008 presidential campaign, Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and Hillary Clinton all opposed gay marriage. The Libertarian Party endorsed gay rights with its first platform in 1972. ... In 1976 the Libertarian Party issued a pamphlet calling for an end to antigay laws and endorsing full marriage rights.

"That's no surprise, of course. Libertarians believe in individual rights for all people and equality before the law."

The Advocate, 6/25/15

"A Bush-Clinton race [for president in 2016] ought to be the best opportunity the Libertarian Party ever had."

David Boaz, Cato Institute executive vice-president, in Spiked interview, 5/29/15

**Read about the
lawsuit against the
Commission on
Presidential Debates:**

FairDebates.com